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ABSTRACT

Findings of a study that determined the physical conditions of Minnesota's public school buildings 50 years and older are presented in this report. Data were obtained from a survey that was distributed to 367 school districts that have 614 buildings 50 years and older. Responses were received from 398 buildings in 242 school districts. Findings indicate that buildings 50 years and older are in general usage statewide and that they present multiple inadequacies in applicable codes and standards including health and safety, handicapped access, and functional adequacy. Over 75 percent reported inadequate site sizes in which future expansion is limited. Recommendations are made to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide monitoring and inspection system, to assess the cost of building improvement, and to identify the adequacy and cost-effectiveness of funding resources. Six tables are included. Appendices contain the survey form and a list of responding schools. (Contains 7 references.) (LMI)

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REPORT OF THE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SURVEY OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS:
50 YEARS AND OLDER

February 1990

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nationwide there is an emerging concern regarding the condition of school buildings. Many school children are faced with learning environments that are inadequate due to buildings that are aging, in severe need of repair, and out of compliance with health and safety requirements.

"Wolves At The Schoolhouse Door: An Investigation of the Condition of Public School Buildings", the report of the 1989 Education Writers Association nationwide survey, reports 25% of Minnesota's 1,500 school buildings in "inadequate condition".

The National Governors' Association 1989 Report on Education includes a section on school facilities. In this report, Minnesota is shown in a table displaying the number and age of school buildings to have 1,506 buildings: 2% of which were constructed pre-1899; 42% between 1900 and 1939; and 25% between 1940 and 1959. Only 3% were constructed between 1980 and 1988.

In an effort to provide state level decision makers with current information on the physical condition of Minnesota's school buildings, a survey of public school buildings was conducted in February 1990. This survey was developed by the District Support Services section of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and distributed to the 367 school districts that, according to MDE records, have 614 buildings that were in part or in total constructed in 1940 or before. The current count of public school buildings in Minnesota is 1,511; therefore, 41% of the buildings fit this category, and 85% of the districts in Minnesota are involved to some extent with such buildings.

The intent of this MDE survey was to provide preliminary information on the condition of school buildings that are 50 years old and older. A general assumption was made that more code and standard violations and more functionally inadequate space exist in older buildings. This report gives the results of the MDE survey. Responses were received from 243 school districts that reported on 398 buildings still in use and reported 42 buildings that contain pre-1940 construction as already closed.

More specific and in-depth information is needed as well as further detail and analysis of the need for improvements in school buildings in Minnesota. The results reported here, however, provide documentation through self-report by the school districts that problems do exist in buildings 50 years old and older and that these problems involve size of school site, accessibility for handicapped persons, applicable general building codes and standards, functional adequacy and fire and life safety codes.

Across all of the 398 school buildings reported still in use by the 243 responding districts, an average of 38% of the currently assigned square footage was found to be constructed in 1940 or before. In addition, only 60 or 15% of the buildings reporting pre-1940 space in current use, also reported that there is currently a plan to phase-out the pre-1940 buildings.

The survey specified particular types of classrooms, program areas, and physical facilities to be rated as accessible or not accessible to handicapped persons. Overall, pre-1940 areas in the building complexes were notably less accessible than post-1940 additions. However, accessibility is reported in the survey responses as a significant problem in both pre-1940 and post-1940 portions of the reporting buildings.

Items to survey compliance with applicable general standards and codes were included in the survey. These areas included health and safety standards; physical building systems and structure; and proximate environment, entrances, egress, walking and bus loading areas. In summary, these data on the general condition of buildings constructed in part or in total in 1940 or before support the need for repairing, remodeling or replacement of facilities to meet applicable codes and standards.

The survey included rating various classrooms and program areas, functionally adequate or functionally inadequate as space for the delivery of the education programs to which they are currently assigned. Data on functional inadequacy support the concern that there are physical facilities inadequate for the delivery of current education programs in a variety of specified subject areas.

The report shows that 156 or 39.9% of schools surveyed have never had a fire inspection by the state fire marshal.

In summary, the data collected from the 242 school districts that completed the MDE survey on 398 school buildings support the following general points of concern regarding school buildings 50 years old or older.

- *Construction 50 years old and older is in general usage in school buildings statewide to house integral parts of the education programs. This space presents multiple and various inadequacies and problems with applicable codes and standards including health and safety, accessibility for handicapped persons, and educational adequacy.
- *Over three quarters of the schools that responded to the survey reported school building sites of inadequate acreage size. Inadequate sites limit future expansion of buildings as an option for resolving facilities problems.
- *Accessibility for handicapped persons is a pervasive problem in various specific programs and in the building in general, especially in the pre-1940 portions of buildings. This can effect equal access to education programs.
- *In many cases, buildings do not meet current health and safety codes; many of these problems call for immediate attention.
- *In many subject and program areas, current education program offerings are not supported by functionally adequate space.
- *The majority of local school districts report plans to address school facilities problems by correcting building deficiencies; a small percentage plan to phase-out buildings. This supports the recent increase in attention to the need to address school building problems.

OVERVIEW

Nationwide there is an emerging concern regarding the condition of school buildings. Many school children are faced with learning environments that are inadequate due to buildings that are aging, in severe need of repair, and out of compliance with health and safety requirements.

"Wolves At The Schoolhouse Door: An Investigation of the Condition of Public School Buildings" was published in 1989 by the Education Writers Association after conducting a state facilities survey nationwide. It reports: "25% of the nation's school buildings are shoddy places to learn. They lack sufficient space, suitability, safety and maintenance for students and teachers in them. An additional 33% are only adequate and because of growing enrollments and deferred maintenance could easily become inadequate. The remaining 42% are in good condition, many of them offering starkly superior environments compared to those in school districts even in the same state because their communities can afford them."

The results of the Education Writers Association survey report 25% of Minnesota's 1500 school buildings in "inadequate condition."

The National Governors' Association 1989 Report on Education includes a section on school facilities. In this report, Minnesota is shown in a table displaying the number and age of school buildings to have 1506 buildings: 2% of which were constructed pre-1899; 42% between 1900 and 1939; and 25% between 1940 and 1959. Only 3% were constructed between 1980 and 1988.

Minnesota school districts are responsible for providing school buildings for children in the district. The need for school buildings is influenced by the amount of space needed for enrollment numbers and for the kind and scope of school program offerings. A variety of requirements and codes apply to constructing, operating, and maintaining school buildings. These codes and requirements of federal, state, and local agencies are designed to provide a safe, healthy, and functionally adequate learning environment for students.

In Minnesota, the requirements that districts must observe for constructing, improving, operating, and maintaining school buildings include the following: fire, life safety codes; health codes; building codes and standards; review and comment requirements; hazardous substance requirements (asbestos, lead); OSHA standards; and pollution control requirements (PCB's, air quality).

The revision and upgrading of codes in combination with aging facilities, deteriorating buildings and equipment, weather disasters, fire, vandalism and accidents, as well as, the normal schedule of repairs and replacement all cause the need for building repair, remodeling, or replacement. Districts are constantly dealing with maintaining school facilities within these requirements and situations.

The resources available to schools to fund such required and needed building improvements include: facilities capital expenditure revenue, school bond referenda, capital or debt service loans, capital loans (under M.S. 124.43), the health and safety levy (under M.S. 124.83), and secondary facilities grants (under M.S. 124.494).

In Minnesota, the level of activity in the area of school facilities improvements is evidenced in the following: In 1988, 2 capital loans were authorized by the legislature; in 1989, 2; and currently in 1990, 19 are recommended by the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education.

In the fall of 1988, 202 school districts were certified for health and safety levy; in the fall of 1989, 316 districts have levy authority for health and safety. In 1987, 40 construction projects were submitted to the Commissioner of Education for review and comment; 50 were submitted in 1988; and 50, in 1989.

In an effort to provide state level decision makers with further information on the physical condition of Minnesota's school buildings, a survey of public school buildings was conducted in February 1990. The survey was developed by the District Support Services Section of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and distributed to the 367 school districts that, according to MDE records, have 614 buildings that were in part or in total constructed in 1940 or before. The current count of public school buildings in Minnesota is 1511; therefore, 41% of the buildings fit this category, and 85% of the districts in Minnesota are involved to some extent with such buildings.

This report gives the results of the MDE survey. Responses were received from 440 schools. Forty-two reported the designated school building already closed, and MDE records were updated accordingly. Therefore, 398 of the remaining 572 schools provided a 70% response rate to the survey.

The intent of this MDE survey was to provide preliminary information on the condition of school buildings that are 50 years old or older. More specific and in-depth information is needed as well as further detail and analysis of the need for improvements in school buildings in Minnesota. The results reported here, however, provide documentation through self-report by the school districts that problems do exist in buildings 50 years old and older and that these problems are multiple and various.

1990 MDE SURVEY OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Recent increases in the applications for capital loans under M.S. 124.43 and the allocation of state funds have focused state level attention on the need for school building improvements in Minnesota.

To date, there have not been routine data collected at the state level on the condition of school buildings throughout the state. Therefore, knowledge of the scope and extent of the need for repairs, remodeling and construction and for the funding to accomplish these projects has been limited. Information has emerged in a fragmented manner as specific local districts made their individual needs known through such actions as capital loan requests, management assistance requests, or by submitting construction proposals to MDE for review and comment.

In order to begin the collection of statewide data on the condition of Minnesota's school buildings, MDE initiated the February 1990 survey of school buildings as a first step toward gathering this information.

The MDE survey was intended to collect selected information regarding codes and standards and to gain a beginning count of how many schools are having problems with buildings being inadequate due to their physical condition. The survey was a self-evaluation by the schools. It was voluntary on the part of districts and was the first time schools, as a group, were asked to provide such information to the state. School buildings 50 years old and older were selected to participate in this initial survey.

The MDE survey of school buildings was sent to superintendents in 367 districts; 614 school buildings in these districts were identified to be surveyed because they were 50 years old and older. Buildings that were entirely constructed in 1940 and before were surveyed. Buildings which were constructed in 1940 or before with additions that were constructed after 1940 were also surveyed. The combination of old and new space in one building complex was the case in 528 of the 614 schools surveyed. Eighty-six of the pre-1940 school buildings had no post-1940 additions.

A general assumption was made that more code and standard violations and more functionally inadequate space exist in older buildings. While it is known that such problems do exist in buildings built since 1940, this survey targeted those buildings 50 years old and older to get that segment of the statewide picture in place as a beginning point.

Follow-up site visits are planned to approximately 20% of the schools that were surveyed. Schools of varying sizes in different geographical areas of the state will be visited. These site visits will provide more in-depth information on the reported school building problems.

THE SURVEY ITEMS

The MDE survey of school buildings was developed as a screening instrument for a number of selected items that are regulated by the applicable codes and standards. Items were included to identify the approximate amount of pre-1940 space within the selected buildings that are currently assigned for student use; to identify site size; and to identify whether or not the assigned space is functionally adequate for program delivery. Items were included to identify if space is accessible to handicapped students and whether or not there are identified problems with fire, health and life safety codes. Information was also collected regarding administrative activity at the local level regarding the condition of school buildings and plans to deal with problems. Finally, the survey asked that the extent to which temporary classroom space and the rental of space in the community are used be identified if these alternatives are in use due to inadequate physical plant conditions in the existing school buildings.

A copy of the survey is attached to this report.

Amount of Pre-1940 Space in Use

The survey included items to gather the square footage of the portions of the buildings that were built in 1940 and before and the square footage of the total building complex including newer additions.

The number and grade levels of students assigned to the pre-1940 space and to the newer space were also collected to get a general picture of the student usage of pre-1940 construction and to compare the extent of that usage with the use of newer space.

Site size was requested to gather information regarding the number of schools that are situated on sites that are not the recommended minimum size.

Codes: Fire, Health, Life Safety

Some selected items were asked regarding the fire, health, and life safety codes that apply to school buildings. Specific items were asked regarding the number of classrooms located adjacent to the boiler room. This is a safety concern that may occur in some older buildings. Also specifically collected were the numbers of elementary and secondary classrooms that do and do not meet MDE square footage guidelines for approved plans. In addition, the number of pre-K, Kindergarten and grade 1 classrooms that do not meet the life safety code requirement to be at or no more than three steps from ground level was requested.

Compliance with applicable codes and standards was surveyed through a yes/no response as to whether a problem exists or does not exist in nine selected areas regulated by standards. These areas included outside loading and walking areas, physical plant systems within the buildings, and construction design of stairwells, building entrances, and the proximate outside environment.

Fire code compliance information was requested by asking the date of the most recent fire marshal inspection.

Functional Adequacy for Delivery of Education Program

The survey asked that classroom facilities in eight selected areas of curriculum and services be rated as functionally adequate or not adequate. Functionally adequate was defined as adequate for the delivery of the education program of the school. These eight areas included regular classrooms, special education classrooms, and selected special areas such as music, art, and physical education space. Respondents were asked to rate the pre-1940 portions of the building and the post-1940 part of the building separately on functional adequacy in these areas so that comparisons could be made.

Accessibility for Handicapped Persons

Nine specific areas including general classrooms, restrooms, cafeterias and library and media centers were selected to sample whether the facilities housing these aspects of the school program are barrier free for handicapped students. Again, reporting the pre-1940 space and the post-1940 portions of the building separately was requested.

Use of Temporary and Rental Space

The survey asked responding schools to report the number of temporary classrooms and rental space in the community that are currently in use because of inadequate physical conditions in the school buildings.

This provides information regarding the extent to which these two alternatives are being used as temporary solutions to the problems presented by the need for repairing, remodeling, or replacing buildings.

District Facilities Management Process

Finally, the survey asked what planning and decision-making activities are occurring in the district regarding inadequate school buildings and the need to repair, replace, or remodel. This provides information regarding local district plans and action to address needs and problems regarding school buildings.

RESPONSE TO THE SURVEY

Of the 614 MDE surveys that were sent, 440 responses were received. In 42 cases, the school buildings were reported no longer in use by the school district. Completed surveys were received from the remaining 398 schools.

This number of responses represents a 70% return rate for the survey.

Findings

The overall finding of the survey was that there is a definite need to address the condition of school buildings across the state. Various data gathered from the survey responses substantiate this need and describe some level of specificity regarding the kind of problems that exist in school buildings.

Across all of the 398 responding buildings, an average of 38% of the square footage currently in use was found to be constructed in 1940 or before.

In addition, only 60 or 15% of the buildings reporting pre-1940 space in current use, also reported that there is currently a plan to phase-out the pre-1940 building; Table 5 displays more detail regarding the actions being taken at the local school district level to deal with building facilities, needs, problems, and plans to resolve the problems.

Not every survey item has been analyzed for inclusion in this report. The following major items are presented with frequency counts and percentages displayed in Tables 1-6 and with discussion of findings.

Site Size

The survey found that 306 of the schools that completed the MDE survey reported site acreage of inadequate size. Table 1 displays schools by category, the recommended site sizes, and the number of schools situated on sites of inadequate size.

The size of a school site is of critical importance in making major modifications to school buildings. Sites over 50 years old are often not adequate in size to house current education programs unless the sites have been expanded to accommodate building additions to meet increasing educational space needs. Many additions to schools have been constructed where the schools are on inadequate size sites; this results in inadequate playgrounds, bus loading and other outside areas.

Table 1
SCHOOL SITE SIZE

Category of School	Minimum Recommended Size	Number of Schools That Do Not Meet Minimum Size
Elementary School	10 Acres	60
Middle School	20	85
Junior High	25	39
Senior High	30	19
Junior-Senior High	40	43
K-12 (large enrollment campus)	40-60	<u>60</u>
TOTAL		306

Guidelines for minimum site size are provided in the "Guide for Planning New and Improved School Facilities in Minnesota," July 1988, a publication of the MDE.

Accessibility for Handicapped Persons

Table 2 displays the number and percent of rooms reported as not accessible to handicapped persons. The requirement for accessibility for the handicapped comes from Federal Law, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Minnesota Statute 120.17, Subd. 3, and State Board of Education Rules, Chapter 3525.

The survey specified particular types of classrooms, program areas, and physical facilities to be rated accessible or not accessible. These specific areas were rated both for the pre-1940 portion of the building and post-1940 additions to the building complex where these existed.

Table 2
ACCESSIBILITY FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS

Type of Classroom/Facility	Number and Percent of Rooms Reported as Not Accessible			
	Pre-1940 Portion of Building		Post-1940 Portion of Building	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
General Classrooms	246	64.2	87	27.1
Special Instructional Areas	216	56.0	88	27.2
Cafeteria	125	33.0	71	22.3
Vocational/Industrial Arts Areas	52	14.1	35	11.1
Restrooms (on all floors)	244	63.0	108	33.8
Library/Media Center	180	47.4	79	24.9
Physical Education Facilities	146	38.3	73	22.7
Main Entrance(s) - (where most students enter)	195	50.9	66	20.4
All Floor Levels (via elevator)	264	69.1	143	44.7

Table 2 shows that in the pre-1940 construction, the three areas rated to have the highest degree of inaccessibility are: all floor levels (via elevator) with 264 or 69.1% of buildings inaccessible; general classrooms with 246 or 64.2% rated inaccessible; and restrooms showing 244 or 63.0% inaccessible.

These are followed by special instructional areas (56%) and main building entrances (50.9%).

Additions that are post-1940 construction were rated with 143 or 44.7% of all floor levels inaccessible. The next two areas most frequently rated inaccessible are restrooms and special instructional areas.

Overall, pre-1940 areas in the building complexes were notably less accessible than post-1940 areas. However, accessibility is reported in the survey responses as a significant problem in both pre-1940 and post-1940 portions of the reporting buildings.

General Building Information

Items to survey compliance with applicable general standards and codes were included in the survey. Schools were requested to rate the total building (pre-1940 and post-1940 portions) to indicate that a problem exists or no problem exists in selected areas.

This item did not identify specific problems, but served as a screening item to identify problem areas for further review and description.

Table 3 shows the number and percent of reporting school buildings that identified problems in the ten selected areas. These areas included health and safety standards; physical building systems and structure; and proximate environment, entrances, egress, walking and bus loading areas.

Table 3
GENERAL BUILDING INFORMATION

	Number and Percent of Buildings Where Problems Exist	
	Number	Percent
Environment (e.g., noise, proximity to highways, railroads, etc.)	58	14.5
Health and Safety Standards	181	45.4
Current Facilities Guidelines for Functional Adequacy	205	52.0
Entrance and Egress Areas	164	41.2
On-site Loading and Unloading Areas for Cars and Buses	121	30.4
Designated Areas for Walkers	70	17.6
Open Stairwells More Than 2 Stories	131	32.8
Wood Structural System	97	24.4
Mechanical Air System	153	38.4
Electrical System	132	33.2

The areas most frequently reported as having problems are functional adequacy, health and safety standards, and entrance and egress areas. The high percent of problems identified here for functional adequacy supports the findings in Table 4 which shows specific areas that are reported functionally inadequate.

Also reported in over 30% of the responding schools are problems with open stairwells, electrical systems, mechanical air systems, and loading and unloading areas for buses and cars.

As technology advances and society as a whole becomes more aware of risks, building regulations, codes and standards are developed and upgraded. Many of these codes and standards impact schools.

As many as 45% of the schools reporting, identified problems with health and safety standards. These problems include 131 schools with open stairwells that could pose a severe hazard in a fire emergency. One hundred twenty-one (121) schools report problems in vehicle loading areas.

Another concern evidenced by this survey is the quality of air in schools; 153 schools report problems with their mechanical air systems. Air contaminants may exist in schools. Problems with the basic air system within a school building become even more serious if compounded by the existence of contaminants.

Where problems with electrical systems are identified, these may be due to current systems deteriorating and creating code violations. In other cases, these may be due to the increase in demand placed on the electrical system by advances in technology and the equipment in use.

Overall functional adequacy of school facilities is represented by survey responses to be the greatest general building problem. There is a need to improve and upgrade facilities to accommodate existing programs in today's educational system. This problem is further detailed in the next section in Table 4.

In summary, these data on the general condition of buildings constructed in part or in total in 1940 or before support the concern that many cases exist in which repairing, remodeling or replacement of facilities is needed to meet applicable codes and standards.

Functional Adequacy

Table 4 displays the number and percent of rooms reported to be functionally inadequate as space for the delivery of the education programs to which they are currently assigned. As in the previous survey item, pre-1940 construction and post-1940 additions to the building complex were rated separately.

Eight selected categories of education program were rated. The number and percent of rooms reported as inadequate are shown in Table 4.

Table 4
FUNCTIONAL ADEQUACY

<u>Type of Classroom/Facility</u>	Number and Percent of Functionally Inadequate Rooms			
	Pre-1940 Portion of Building		Post-1940 Portion of Building	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Regular Classrooms	85	21.9	18	5.7
Science Laboratories	70	18.6	21	6.8
Library/Media Center	78	20.7	37	11.9
Computer Laboratories	63	16.6	32	10.2
Vocational/Industrial Arts	20	5.4	12	3.9
Art/Music Facilities	87	23.1	48	15.5
Physical Education Facilities (including dressing rooms)	104	27.6	43	13.7
Special Education Classrooms	88	23.5	40	12.9

Physical education facilities were rated most often by the pre-1940 buildings as inadequate for the program they house. One hundred four or 27.6% were reported functionally inadequate. Special education classrooms, art/music facilities, regular classrooms, and library/media centers followed in frequency of inaccessible ratings.

In the post-1940 portions of the buildings, art/music facilities were rated most frequently as inadequate. Physical education facilities and special education classrooms followed as the next two highest categories rated inaccessible.

In summary, these data on functional inadequacy indicate a problem in both pre- and post-1940 portions of the buildings that responded. This supports the concern that physical facilities are inadequate for the delivery of current education programs in a variety of specified subject areas.

School District Activities Regarding Facilities Problems

Table 5 exhibits the number of districts that have a district building facilities committee operating and/or have had school board discussions on the condition of buildings within the last year. Also displayed are the numbers of districts that plan to phase out buildings or correct building deficiencies.

Table 5

SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTIVITIES REGARDING FACILITIES

<u>School District Activities</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Number of Districts that have Operational Building Facilities Committee	284	72.1
Number of School Boards that have Discussed Condition of Buildings in the Past Year	348	87.9
Number of Districts that have a Plan to Phase Out Pre-1940 Building	60	15.0
Number of Districts that have a Plan to Phase Out Pre-1940 Building and Additions	41	10.2
Number of Districts that have a Plan to Correct Site/Building Deficiencies	245	63.8

A large number of districts reported having building facilities committees operating (284) and having had school board discussions regarding the condition of buildings within the last year (348). These data substantiate the increased awareness and concern about the problems with physical facilities in school districts and recognition of the need to address those problems.

Only 60 schools, or 15%, reported having a plan to phase out a pre-1940 building; out of these, 41 schools or 10.2% report having a plan to phase out post-1940 additions also. Two hundred forty-five (245) schools report a plan to correct site/building deficiencies.

Fire and Life Safety Inspections

Table 6 displays data regarding fire inspection. The requirements of the Fire Marshal Division Fire Safety Code of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety apply to school buildings by law.

Table 6
FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY

<u>Fire Inspections by State Marshal</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
School Building Inspected	235	60.1
School Building Never Inspected	156	39.9
TOTAL	391**	

Year of Last Inspection

1977 (or before)	6*
1978	1
1979	3
1980	8
1981	1
1982	6
1983	9
1984	6
1985	9
1986	27
1987	16
1988	28
1989	64
1990	16

*includes 3 inspections in 1975

**8 reporting schools did not respond to this item

Table 6 shows that 156 or 39.9% of schools surveyed have never had a fire inspection by the state fire marshal. The date of the last fire marshal inspection as reported is also displayed. These data indicate that in the majority of schools that have been inspected, the inspection occurred within the last five years. The highest number of inspections in a single year occurred in 1989.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the data collected from the 398 school buildings that responded to the MDE survey support the following general points of concern regarding school buildings 50 years old and older.

1. Construction 50 years old and older is in general usage in school buildings statewide to house integral parts of the education programs. This space presents multiple and various inadequacies and problems with applicable codes and standards including health and safety, accessibility for handicapped persons, and educational adequacy.
2. Over three quarters of the schools that responded to the survey reported school building sites of inadequate acreage size. Inadequate sites limit future expansion of buildings as an option for resolving facilities problems.
3. Accessibility for handicapped persons is a pervasive problem in various specific programs and in the buildings in general, especially in the pre-1940 portions of buildings. This can affect equal access to education programs.
4. In many cases, buildings do not meet current health and safety codes; many of these problems call for immediate attention.
5. In many subject and program areas, current education program offerings are not supported by functionally adequate space.
6. The majority of local school districts report plans to address school facilities problems by correcting building deficiencies; a small percentage plan to phase-out buildings. This supports the recent increase in attention to the need to address school building problems.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A comprehensive statewide system of monitoring and inspecting Minnesota school buildings for all applicable codes and standards should be developed and implemented.
2. The cost of the improvements to school buildings necessary to meet applicable codes and standards should be reviewed and the resources and policy that provide for the funding of these necessary improvements should be identified and examined for adequacy and cost effectiveness toward the goal of providing all students in Minnesota with safe and adequate school buildings.

 Minnesota Department of Education	District Support Services 941 Capitol Square - 550 Cedar St. Paul, MN 55101	SCHOOL BUILDING SURVEY	ED-01486-01
			DUE: 2/12/90

GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS: This survey is designed to gather selected information on school district buildings that were, in-part or totally, constructed more than 50 years ago, and are currently being occupied by students. This information is essential for a report being prepared by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to submit to the 1990 legislature to provide a preliminary description of the scope of the need in Minnesota for school facilities improvement. If your building has had no additions since 1940, respond to those items on this survey that refer to the Pre-1940 building only. Please complete one survey for each building 50 years old or older. A sheet identifying the buildings of that age (according to MDE records) is included for your reference. Please return the completed surveys to the above address by February 12, 1990.

NOTE: For purposes of this survey, buildings constructed (totally or in-part) more than 50 years ago will be referred to as "PRE-1940 BUILDINGS."

Name of School District			District Number		
Name of Pre-1940 Building		Total Pre-1940 Square Feet	Total Current Square Feet*	Total Site Acreage	
Name of Person Completing this Survey			Title	Telephone Number () -	

* Total square feet of Pre-1940 building AND all newer additions.

PRE-1940 BUILDING INFORMATION		Complete the table below as it applies to the PRE-1940 portion of the building ONLY.							
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ASSIGNED PRIMARILY TO THIS BUILDING	STUDENT GRADE LEVELS SERVED	TOTAL CLASSROOMS				NUMBER OF CLASSROOMS LOCATED ADJACENT TO OR ABOVE BOILER ROOM	NUMBER OF CLASSROOMS LOCATED MORE THAN THREE STAIRCASE STEPS ABOVE OR BELOW STRUCTURE GRADE LEVEL		
		ELEMENTARY		SECONDARY			PRESCHOOL	KINDERGARTEN	FIRST GRADE
		LESS THAN 900 SQ. FT.	MORE THAN 900 SQ. FT.	LESS THAN 800 SQ. FT.	MORE THAN 800 SQ. FT.				

POST-1940 ADDITIONS INFORMATION		Complete the table below as it applies to all newer additions made to the Pre-1940 building. If no additions have been made to the building since 1940, leave this table blank.							
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ASSIGNED PRIMARILY TO THIS BUILDING	STUDENT GRADE LEVELS SERVED	TOTAL CLASSROOMS				NUMBER OF CLASSROOMS LOCATED ADJACENT TO OR ABOVE BOILER ROOM	NUMBER OF CLASSROOMS LOCATED MORE THAN THREE STAIRCASE STEPS ABOVE OR BELOW STRUCTURE GRADE LEVEL		
		ELEMENTARY		SECONDARY			PRESCHOOL	KINDERGARTEN	FIRST GRADE
		LESS THAN 900 SQ. FT.	MORE THAN 900 SQ. FT.	LESS THAN 800 SQ. FT.	MORE THAN 800 SQ. FT.				

ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE HANDICAPPED	For the Pre-1940 building and for additions made to that building, check (X) "YES" or "NO" to indicate accessibility for the handicapped. Check "N/A" if area does not apply.								
ARE THE FOLLOWING AREAS ACCESSIBLE?	PRE-1940 BUILDING			POST-1940 ADDITIONS					
	YES	NO	N/A	YES	NO	N/A			
1. General Classrooms	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]			
2. Special Instructional Areas	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]			
3. Cafeteria	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]			
4. Vocational / Industrial Arts Areas	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]			
5. Restrooms (on all floors)	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]			
6. Library / Media Center	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]			
7. Physical Education Facilities	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]			
8. Main Entrance(s) - (where most students enter)	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]			
9. All Floor Levels (via elevator/lift)	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]			

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FUNCTIONALLY ADEQUATE SPACE	For the pre-1940 building and all additions made to the building, check (X) to indicate whether the listed facilities are functionally adequate for a modern educational program. If the facilities do not apply to building, check "N/A".
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ARE FACILITIES FUNCTIONALLY ADEQUATE?	PRE-1940 BUILDING			POST-1940 ADDITIONS		
	YES	NO	N/A	YES	NO	N/A
1. Regular Classrooms	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Science Laboratories	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Library / Media Center	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Computer Laboratories	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Vocational / Industrial Arts Areas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. Art / Music Facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7. Physical Education facilities (incl. dressing rooms)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8. Special Education Classrooms	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

TOTAL BUILDING GENERAL INFORMATION	Respond to the items below with regard to pre-1940 building and all additions to that building since 1940.		
	A PROBLEM EXISTS	NO PROBLEMS EXIST	N / A
1. Environment (e.g. noise, proximity to highways, railroads, etc.)	☐	☐	☐
2. Health and safety standards	☐	☐	☐
3. Current facilities guidelines for functional adequacy	☐	☐	☐
4. Entrance and egress areas	☐	☐	☐
5. On-site loading and unloading areas for cars and buses	☐	☐	☐
6. Designated areas for walkers	☐	☐	☐
7. Open stairwells more than two stories	☐	☐	☐
8. Wood structural system	☐	☐	☐
9. Mechanical air system	☐	☐	☐
10. Electrical system	☐	☐	☐

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION : Respond as applicable to your district.	
YES	NO
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

FIRE INSPECTIONS
1. What was the date of the most recent State Fire Marshal inspection of the Pre-1940 building (or building complex including the Pre-1940 building)? ☐ Never inspected ☐ Inspected on: DATE: ____ / ____ / ____
2. Attach copies of any current fire code violations to this survey, if available.

TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS	If your district is using temporary classroom space in portable units PRIMARILY due to the physical condition of the pre-1940 building, provide the information requested in the table below.				
NUMBER OF TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS	AVERAGE AGE OF UNITS	DOES EACH UNIT INCLUDE RESTROOM FACILITIES	NUMBER OF UNITS:		NUMBER OF UNITS CONSTRUCTED WITH COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS
			THAT ARE ATTACHED TO MAIN SCHOOL WITH ENCLOSED RAMP	WITH UNCOVERED WALKWAY TO MAIN BUILDING	

RENTAL SPACE IN THE COMMUNITY	If rental space in the community is used for temporary classroom space PRIMARILY due to the physical condition of the pre-1940 building, respond to the two questions below.	
How many classrooms are currently being rented?	Number of Classrooms: _____	
Does the rental space meet all applicable codes?	☐ YES ☐ NO	

VERIFICATION OF DATA
I hereby verify that the information provided in this survey is true and accurate to the best of my belief and knowledge.
Signature - Superintendent / Responsible Authority Date

LIST OF SCHOOLS THAT COMPLETED MDE SURVEY FOR THIS REPORT

DISTRICT		SCHOOL BUILDING	DISTRICT		SCHOOL BUILDING
AITKIN	1	PALISADE ELEM	NORWOOD/Y.A.	108	CENTRAL HIGH
AITKIN	1	AITKIN JR/SR HIGH	WACONIA	110	WACONIA JR/SR
MINNEAPOLIS	1	HARRISON ELEM	WATERTOWN	111	WATERTOWN/MAYER ELEM
MINNEAPOLIS	1	WINDOM ELEM	CASS LAKE	115	CASS LAKE SCHOOL
MINNEAPOLIS	1	WILLARD ELEM	PILLAGER	116	PILLAGER PUBLIC
MINNEAPOLIS	1	WASHBURN HIGH	REMER	118	WPA BUIDING
MINNEAPOLIS	1	TUTTLE-MARCY ELEM	WALKEP	119	WALKER
MINNEAPOLIS	1	SOUTHWEST HIGH	CLARA CITY	126	CLARA CITY PUBLIC
MINNEAPOLIS	1	SHERIDAN ELEM	CLARA CITY	126	CLARA CITY SR
MINNEAPOLIS	1	SANFORD JR. HIGH	MAYNARD	127	MACCRAY ELEM
MINNEAPOLIS	1	ROOSEVELT HIGH	MONTEVIDEO	129	MIDDLE SCHOOL
MINNEAPOLIS	1	RAMSEY ELEM	NORTH BRANCH	138	NORTH BRANCH MIDDLE
MINNEAPOLIS	1	PRATT ELEM	RUSH CITY	139	RUSH CITY HIGH
MINNEAPOLIS	1	NORTHROP ELEM	GLYNDON	145	GLYNDON-FELTON HIGH
MINNEAPOLIS	1	MORRIS PARK ELEM	HAWLEY	150	HAWLEY HIGH
MINNEAPOLIS	1	LORING ELEM	COOK COUNTY	166	GRAND PORTAGE ELEM
MINNEAPOLIS	1	LONGFELLOW ELEM	MT. LAKE	173	MT. LAKE HIGH
MINNEAPOLIS	1	LINCOLN ELEM	WESTBROOK	175	WESTBROOK HIGH
MINNEAPOLIS	1	KENWOOD ELEM	WINDOM SCHOOL	177	AREA CENTRAL
MINNEAPOLIS	1	KEEWAYDIN ELEM	STORDEN-JEFFR	178	STORDEN
MINNEAPOLIS	1	JEFFERSON ELEM	STORDEN-JEFFR	178	CENTRAL BUILDING
MINNEAPOLIS	1	HOWE ELEM	BRAINERD	181	WHITTIER ELEM
MINNEAPOLIS	1	HIAWATHA ELEM	BRAINERD	181	LINCOLN ELEM
MINNEAPOLIS	1	HENRY HIGH	BRAINERD	181	FRANKLIN JR
MINNEAPOLIS	1	HALE ELEM	BRAINERD	181	WASHINGTON
MINNEAPOLIS	1	FULTON ELEM	BRAINERD	181	HARRISON ELEM
MINNEAPOLIS	1	FOLWELL JR HIGH	BRAINERD	181	LOWELL ELEM
MINNEAPOLIS	1	FIELD ELEM	BRAINERD	181	NISSWA
MINNEAPOLIS	1	ERICSSON ELEM	CROSBY-IRONTON	182	CENTRAL
MINNEAPOLIS	1	EMERSON ELEM	FARMINGTON	192	FARMINGTON MIDDLE
MINNEAPOLIS	1	EDISON HIGH	ROSEMOUNT	196	ROSEMOUNT MIDDLE
MINNEAPOLIS	1	DOWLING ELEM	CLAREMONT	201	CLAREMONT HIGH
MINNEAPOLIS	1	COOPER ELEM	DODGE CENTER	202	DODGE CENTER ELEM
MINNEAPOLIS	1	BURROUGHS ELEM	ALEXANDRIA	206	CENTRAL JR
MINNEAPOLIS	1	BARTON ELEM	ALEXANDRIA	206	WASHINGTON ELEM
MINNEAPOLIS	1	BANCROFT ELEM	ALEXANDRIA	206	GARFIELD ELEM
MINNEAPOLIS	1	AUDUBON ELEM	EVANSVILLE	208	EVANSVILLE HIGH
MCGREGOR	4	MCGREGOR	OSAKIS	213	OSAKIS
S. ST. PAUL	6	ROOSEVELT ELEM	ELMORE	219	ELMORE
S. ST. PAUL	6	WASHINGTON ELEM	WELLS-EASTON	224	WELLS
S. ST. PAUL	6	S. ST. PAUL SENIOR	WINNEBAGO	225	WINNEBAGO ELEM & HIGH
ST. FRANCIS	15	CEDAR ELEM	HARMONY	228	HARMONY HIGH
AUDUBON	21	AUDUBON ELEM	PRESTON	233	PRESTON HIGH
LAKE PARK	24	LAKE PARK	RUSHFORD	234	RUSHFORD HIGH
BEMIDJI	31	LINCOLN	WYKOFF	236	WYKOFF
BEMIDJI	31	BEMIDJI HIGH	ALBERT LEA	241	CENTRAL HIGH
BLACKDUCK	32	WASHINGTON	EMMONS	243	EMMONS
KELLIHER	36	KELLIHER	FREEHORN	244	FREEHORN HIGH
CLINTON	58	CLINTON	GOODHUE	253	GOODHUE
GRACEVILLE	60	GRACEVILLE	PINE ISLAND	255	PINE ISLAND
ORTONVILLE	62	ORTONVILLE HIGH	RED WING	256	CENTRAL/WASHINGTON
LAKE CRYSTAL	70	LAKE CRYSTAL	RED WING	256	COLVILT
MAPLETON	72	MAPLETON HIGH	RED WING	256	HANCOCK ELEM
MANKATO	77	FRANKLIN ELEM	RED WING	256	JEFFERSON
MANKATO	77	LINCOLN COMM CTR	RED WING	256	BURNSIDE
MANKATO	77	ROOSEVELT ELEM	WANAMINGO	258	WANAMINGO HIGH
GARDEN CITY	78	RAPIDAN	ASHBY	261	ASHBY
GARDEN CITY	78	WELCOME MEMORIAL	HERMAN-NORCH	264	HERMAN HIGH
COMFREY	81	COMFREY	HOFFMAN	265	HOFFMAN-KENSINGTON
SPRINGFIELD	85	SPRINGFIELD	HOPKINS	270	KATHERINE CURREN ELEM
NEW ULM	88	LAFAYETTE ELEM	HOPKINS	270	BURWELL COMM. CTR
NEW ULM	88	NEW ULM JR	HOPKINS	270	HARLEY HOPKINS COMM CTR
NEW ULM	88	HANSKA ELEM	EDEN PRAIRIE	272	EDEN PRAIRIE
CARLTON	93	OLD WING HIGH	MINNETONKA	276	DEEPHAVEN EDUCATION
CLOQUET	94	GARFIELD COMM CTR	MINNETONKA	276	EXCELSIOR
CLOQUET	94	CLOQUET MIDDLE	MINNETONKA	276	MINNEWASHTA
CROMWELL	95	CROMWELL HIGH	ROBBINSDALE	281	ROBBINSDALE AREA COMM
CROMWELL	95	WRIGHT ELEM	HOUSTON	294	HOUSTON ELEM
MOOSE LAKE	97	MOOSE LAKE	LAPORTE	306	LAPORTE
ESKO	99	LINCOLN SCHOOL	BRAHAM	314	BRAHAM

DISTRICT		SCHOOL BUILDING	DISTRICT		SCHOOL BUILDING
COLERAINE	316	CONNOR-JASPER MIDDLE	WORTHINGTON	518	CENTRAL ELEM
COLERAINE	316	GREENWAY HIGH	BORUP	522	BORUP OLD BLDG
GRAND RAPIDS	318	WARBA ELEM	HALSTAD	524	HALSTAD
GRAND RAPIDS	318	TOGO ELEM	HENDRUM	525	HENDRUM
GRAND RAPIDS	318	RIVERVIEW ELEM	TWIN VALLEY	526	TWIN VALLEY
GRAND RAPIDS	318	BIGFORK ELEM	BYRON	531	BYRON ELEM
GRAND RAPIDS	318	COHASSET ELEM	DOVER-EYOTA	533	DOVER MIDDLE
GRAND RAPIDS	318	GRAND RAPIDS MIDDLE	DOVER-EYOTA	533	EYOTA ELEM
LAKEFIELD	325	HIGH SCHOOL SHOP/GYM	BATTLE LAKE	542	BATTLE LAKE
SIoux VALLEY	328	SIoux VALLEY ELEM	FERGUS FALLS	544	ADAMS ELEM
HERON LAKE	330	HERON LAKE	FERGUS FALLS	544	MCKINLEY ELEM
MORA	332	MORA	PARKERS PR	547	PARKERS PRAIRIE
OGILVIE	333	OGILVIE	PELICAN RAPID	548	FINE ARTS AUD
ATWATER	341	ATWATER	PERHAM	549	PERHAM HIGH
ATWATER	341	ATWATER	UNDERWOOD	550	UNDERWOOD
NEW LONDON	345	SPICER	NEW YORK MILL	553	NEW YORK MILLS
RAYMOND	346	MACCRAY EAST ELEM	GOODRIDGE	561	GOODRIDGE
WILLMAR	347	BLOMKEST ELEM	THIEF RVR FAL	564	KNOX ELEM
WILLMAR	347	GARFIELD ELEM	THIEF RVR FAL	564	NORTHROP ELEM
WILLMAR	347	LINCOLN ELEM	THIEF RVR FAL	564	LINCOLN HIGH
WILLMAR	347	KANDIYOHI ELEM	ASKOV	566	E. CENTRAL JR
WILLMAR	347	LAFAYETTE ELEM	ASKOV	566	BRUNO ELEM
WILLMAR	347	CENTRAL OFFICE	FINLAYSON	570	FINLAYSON HIGH
HUMBOLDT	352	HUMBOLDT	SANDSTONE	576	OLD SANDSTONE HIGH
KARLSTAD	353	KARLSTAD PUBLIC	WILLOW RIVER	577	WILLOW RIVER
LANCASTER	356	LANCASTER	PINE CITY	578	PINE CITY
INTL FALLS	361	BACKUS	EDGERTON	581	EDGERTON
INTL FALLS	361	ALEXANDER BAKER	JASPER	582	JASPER
BELLINGHAM	371	BELLINGHAM SCHOOL	PIPESTONE	583	PIPESTONE HIGH
LK OF THE WDS	390	CATHCART HIGH	RUTHTON	584	RUTHTON
CLEVELAND	391	CLEVELAND	CROOKSTON	593	CENTRAL
LE SUEUR	393	PARK ELEM	FERTILE	599	FERTILE
MONTGOMERY	394	MONTGOMERY	MCINTOSH	603	MCINTOSH HIGH
WATERVILLE	395	WATERVILLE HIGH	MENTOR	604	MENTOR
HENDRICKS	402	HENDRICKS	CYRUS	611	CYRUS SECONDARY
LAKE BENTON	404	LAKE BENTON	STARBUCK	614	STARBUCK
VERDI	408	VERDI PUBLIC	ROSEVILLE	623	EDGERTON
TYLER	409	TYLER, 1903	ST. PAUL	625	ADAMS
COTTONWOOD	412	COTTONWOOD	ST. PAUL	625	AMES ELEM
MARSHALL	413	MARSHALL JR	ST. PAUL	625	CENTRAL SENIOR
LYND	415	LYND PUBLIC	ST. PAUL	625	CHELSEA HEIGHTS
RUSSELL	418	RUSSELL HIGH	ST. PAUL	625	CHEROKEE HGTS
BROWNTON	421	BROWNTON HIGH	ST. PAUL	625	CLEVELAND JR
GLENCOE	422	GLENCOE MIDDLE	ST. PAUL	625	COMO PK ELEM
STEWART	426	STEWART ELEM	ST. PAUL	625	EASTERN HGTS
WAUBUN	435	OMEGA ELEM	ST. PAUL	625	FARNSWORTH
WAUBUN	435	WAUBUN	ST. PAUL	625	GROVELAND PARK
ALVARADO	436	VALLEY NORTH ELEM	ST. PAUL	625	HAYDEN HEIGHTS
ARGYLE	437	ARGYLE	ST. PAUL	625	HOME CROFT
GRYGLA	447	GRYGLA OLD BLDG	ST. PAUL	625	HUMBOLDT JR
CEYLON	451	CEYLON	ST. PAUL	625	JACKSON ELEM
FAIRMONT	454	CENTRAL	ST. PAUL	625	JEFFERSON ALT
TRUMAN	458	TRUMAN ELEM	ST. PAUL	625	MANN ELEM
WELCOME	459	WELCOME HIGH	ST. PAUL	625	MONROE
EDEN VALLEY	463	EDEN VALLEY	ST. PAUL	625	MURRAY JR
GROVE CITY	464	GROVE CITY ELEM	ST. PAUL	625	OPEN SCHOOL
GROVE CITY	464	1936 BLDG	ST. PAUL	625	PARKWAY ELEM
LITCHFIELD	465	WASHINGTON	ST. PAUL	625	PHALEN LK ELEM
ISLE	473	ISLE HIGH	ST. PAUL	625	RAMSEY JR
PRINCETON	477	PRINCETON MIDDLE	ST. PAUL	625	RANDOLPH HGTS
ONAMIA	480	ONAMIA ELEM	ST. PAUL	625	RIVERSIDE
SWANVILLE	486	SWANVILLE	ST. PAUL	625	ROOSEVELT
UPSALA	487	1920 ADDITION	ST. PAUL	625	WASHINGTON
AUSTIN	492	AUSTIN HIGH	ST. PAUL	625	WEBSTER
AUSTIN	492	SUMNER ELEM	ST. PAUL	625	BEN MAYS
AUSTIN	492	SHAW ELEM	OKLEE	627	OKLEE HIGH
GRAND MEADOW	495	GRAND MEADOW	PLUMMER	628	PLUMMER
LYLE	497	LYLE 1906	RED LAKE	630	LAFAYETTE HIGH
LEROY	499	LEROY HIGH	BELVIEW	631	BELVIEW
FULDA	505	FULDA ELEM	MORGAN	636	MORGAN
NICOLLET	507	NICOLLET GYM	REDWOOD FALLS	637	LINCOLN
BREWSTER	513	BREWSTER ELEM	BIRD ISLAND	646	BIRD ISLAND
ROUND LAKE	516	ROUND LAKE	BUFFALO LAKE	647	BUFFALO LAKE

REFERENCES

1. Fire Marshal Division Fire Safety Code, Department of Public Safety, 1989.
2. Guide for Planning New and Improved School Facilities in Minnesota, State of Minnesota, Department of Education, July 1988.
3. Minnesota State Board of Education Rules, 3500.440, Fire Safety.
4. National Fire Protection Association 101, Life Safety Code, 1988.
5. Results in Education: 1989, National Governors' Association, 1989.
6. Review and Comment Report on School Construction, Department of Education, January 1989.
7. Wolves at the Schoolhouse Door, Education Writers Association, 1989.